



Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and she reigned from 1558 until her death in 1603. Elizabeth was loved by her people and her forty-five year reign was in many ways “a golden age” for England. It was the age of Shakespeare and the discovery of the New World.

When the Spanish Armada, the fleet of ships sent by the Catholic king of Spain King Philip II to invade England in 1588, was approaching the English coast, Elizabeth made a passionate speech to encourage her soldiers. She said, “I know I have the body of a small and weak woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and a king of England too! The Spanish invasion failed and Elizabeth was confirmed as one of the most popular monarchs Britain has ever had.

But Elizabeth was anything but weak and small. In fact, writers of the time recorded many incidents of times when she was extremely strong and aggressive. One day when she got angry with her secretary she threw a slipper at him and hit him in the face, and on another occasion she hit one of her ministers who had offended her.

Read the text and mark the sentences TRUE or FALSE

- 1-Elizabeth was loved by her people.
- 2-Britain was defeated by the Spanish.
- 3-She was not physically strong.
- 4-Britain wasn't considered a powerful country during Elizabeth's reign.
- 5-Elizabeth had a strong personality.
- 6- She could sometimes be aggressive.